

KATE KLEINLE

Candidate for

SECRETARY 334



Hello!

I'm Kate Kleinle, current Pro-Secretary of the Phil's 333rd session and candidate for Secretary of 334. I want to be Secretary because I genuinely care- about debating, about public speaking, and about the future of the Phil. Having spent six years debating and public speaking, and one year already on Team Sec, I believe I am uniquely qualified to fulfill this role and make our debates the best they can possibly be!

Experience

As a member of Team Sec 333, I've been lucky enough to spend the past year learning firsthand about what it takes to be a great Secretary.

One of the Secretary's most important roles is setting the motions for Thursday night debates. As a member of Team Sec, I personally came up with high-impact motions such as "THW Die for Its Cause," "THR The Rise of AI," and even the motion for the SER debate against Harvard: "THB The American Dream is Dead." If elected, I plan to prioritise more of these strong, high-impact motions, emphasizing topical discourse which will be intellectually stimulating and draw a large crowd of debaters and non-debaters alike. Good chamber debate motions have wide appeal, and I believe the motions I was responsible for this year reflect that.

Throughout this year, I also emailed, assisted, and spoke with myriad guests and speakers- on Thursday nights and beyond. From my experience as Pro-Sec and from internships spent collaborating with high-profile politicians and businesspeople, I have demonstrated the professionalism and personability necessary to interact with speakers and guests of all backgrounds, representing the Phil each Thursday night.

Passion

Coming to Trinity, I immediately wanted to be involved with chamber debating. Since my first chamber speech in November of first year, I've participated in more Thursday night debates than anyone else in my year. I was the recipient of the Best Novice Chamber Speech award at last year's AGM, and have consistently displayed fervor and verve for Thursday night debates. To spread this passion to the rest of Trinity, I'll set motions which are interesting enough to spark excitement in audience members, and which get them to feel just as deeply about debate as I do.

However, having successfully debated and competed in public speaking competitions for six years (and coached both debate and public speaking for three years!) my lifelong passion for this activity far exceeds the scope of just Thursday night debates. Making chamber debates as engaging and accessible as possible is crucial, but I intend to go above and beyond by creating a series of workshops and panel discussions specifically designed to introduce new or marginalised Phil members to the thrill of public speaking. After all, as the largest student society in the world, we should utilize our incredible platform to teach members speaking skills for life!



Gender Inclusivity

Our gender ratio for the past few years has been decent, but could definitely improve- especially with regard to guests. **As secretary, I pledge to invite one female guest for every man invited to each debate.** Hopefully, bringing these powerful women into the chamber each Thursday will prove to female Trinity students that they, too, are welcome in the chamber- and that they, too, should give public speaking a try.

Event Ideas

This year, the chamber was extremely open to freshers. That was great, but many were also visibly nervous before speaking. In order to both assuage speakers' nerves and make for better, more polished debates, I want to facilitate **Chamber Debate Training**- in which I deliver mini-workshops on topics such as projecting, overcoming nerves, or varying tone, and run practice debates in the chamber to introduce speakers to the space and provide individual coaching on rhetoric, projection, etc. This will create more confident, well-spoken speakers, thereby encouraging signups and improving the debate experience for speakers and spectators alike.

One of the biggest problems plaguing our debates is a lack of female signups. Though I will continue the tradition of holding an all-female debate on a feminist motion, I also want to tackle this problem in a more innovative way: by inviting women into the chamber to organically encourage more female participation. To do this, I will both increase the number of female guests (as outlined above) and **organise a panel talk** of women from various professions- successful lawyers, politicians, businesspeople- to discuss adversity they've faced, ask for advice pertinent to public speaking and workplace success, and solidify a tradition of strong women speaking in the Phil!

Diversity

The chamber can be an intimidating place for everyone, but particularly for those from marginalised backgrounds. This is a problem which I will strive to fix.

For non-Irish students, language can be a huge barrier. To rectify this, I want to organise an **ESL Chamber Debating Workshop**, making the chamber more inclusive to members of any national origin.

I also plan to **reach out** to organisations such as Indian Soc, Chinese Soc, Europa, and Germanic Soc to see whether we can plan motions or talks which highlight other cultures and diversify the termcard.

Finally, as an international student myself, I am extremely cognizant of how alienating some motions can be to non-Irish students. This year, I **strove to make the wording and topic of every motion clear and accessible** to students from around the globe. Overall, my vision for the Phil is one which is inclusive, diverse, and globally aware!

Cross-Campus Participation

The best Phil events are those which are interesting, inclusive, and accessible to everyone- not just to highly active members. To increase Phil involvement across campus, I intend to **continue collaborating with other societies** for as many debates as possible, but also to **invite individual speakers from other societies** to speak in debates pertinent to their areas of interest (for example, posting signups in a SOFIA group encouraging their members to come to the Phil and speak in an IR debate.)

I also intend to host **workshops** for those looking to learn general public speaking skills, whether or not they intend to debate. Often, the Phil provides training for speakers sharpening their skills to prepare for BP competitions- but most Trinity students just want to learn how to give presentations for internships or to speak in front of small crowds at work. By providing more workshops around such universally accessible topics, we give people a reason to enter the GMB who otherwise never would.